



Lamoine Board of Selectmen

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Minutes of April 5, 2012

Chair Jo Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Present were: Selectmen S. Josephine Cooper, Richard Fennelly Jr., William Brann, Cynthia Donaldson; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Budget Committee member Kathleen DeFusco. Selectman Gary McFarland had informed the board he was unable to attend.

Agenda Review – There were no changes proposed to the printed agenda.

Minutes of March 15, 2012 – Cynthia had two minor changes. Jo moved to approve the minutes with those corrections, Cynthia 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 19 – Stu reported there were a lot of bills, but they were relatively small ones. He said there were two payrolls on the warrant. Selectmen signed the warrant in the amount of \$36,980.92.

Cash & Budget Report – Stu noted that excise tax collections are starting to pick up.

Checking Account Reconciliation – Stu reported he had e-mailed the checking account reconciliation to the board earlier in the week. Selectmen signed the statement expressing satisfaction with the review.

Excise Tax Report – Stu reported the report had been posted to the town's website, and it looks like revenues have started to slowly creep back up after hitting a low point two years ago.

Quitclaim Deed – Jo moved to sign a quitclaim deed to Frank and Wendy Young for tax acquired property on Map 12 Lot 46. Bill 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0, Selectmen signed the deed, and Mrs. Defusco witnessed the signatures.** *(Note that Selectman McFarland signed the deed the following day with his wife as a witness)*

Rapid Renewal – Stu explained that on-line vehicle registrations currently only accept electronic checks, which requires the user to enter their checking account information. InforME has proposed accepting credit cards in the same manner as the town hall, with the user charged 2.5%. Jo moved to approve of that, Richard 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.** Jo signed the agreements with InforME to allow that.

Maine DOT 2-year plan – Stu reviewed the projects placed on the list, including Route 184 in North Lamoine (Douglas Highway), Route 184 in East Lamoine (Lamoine Beach Road), Route 204 (Pinkhams' Flats) and a traffic light at Route 3 and 204 in Trenton. Jo signed the plan.

Sweeping Bid – There was no objection to sending out requests for bids to sweep the winter sand off the roads as drafted.

RSU 24 Withdrawal Vote – Selectmen signed the special town meeting warrant for the referendum vote on whether to start the withdrawal process from RSU 24. The vote will take place on the primary election day of June 12, 2012

Public Hearing – Jo signed the public hearing notice for May 30, 2012 on the special town meeting question.

Questions and Comments – Stu reported that he and Cynthia attended the Local School Advisory Committee forum that was held the previous Monday (April 2, 2012), and it was a lively discussion. Cynthia said she had wished that it could have been recorded for the Cable TV Channel. She said 27 people attended, as did a reporter from the Ellsworth American, and the attendees have been the same people that have attended the previous discussions. She said there is another forum planned on May 7th. She handed out copies of the material that was distributed at the forum.

Cynthia said she hoped that the material could be made available in printed form at the town hall, but Stu was not sure whether that was legal. Stu said he could inquire from Maine Municipal Association Legal Services. Cynthia said she would like to see that done.

There was a brief discussion about state EPS revenue and how Lamoine might benefit from the RSU which receives some of that funding from other RSU members.

Bill said he looked over the comments and questions that were submitted and was greatly impressed by the quality and quantity of them. He said it was heartening to see the response from the community.

Web Page – Stu said he's tried to keep up to date with media reports links for the web page. He said he's posted the materials prepared by the Local School Advisory Committee, but he has not posted the questions and comments received. Richard said he would like to see those on the web page.

Thank you letters – Selectmen signed a card thanking Priscilla Hukki for leading a moment of silence at the annual town meeting.

The Selectmen signed thank-you letters to the following for their assistance during a major house fire in town on March 19th:

- Town of Trenton
- Town of Hancock
- City of Ellsworth
- Town of Sullivan
- Town of Sorrento
- Town of Surry
- Jay Fowler
- Lamoine Marketplace

Fire Department Boiler – Stu said the only hole in the RFP for a new boiler is a date the chief engineer can meet with prospective bidders. He said the fire chief will get together with the engineer. He said he would like to get the project advertised soon.

Stu reported a citizen suggested a wood pellet boiler, but he's not sure about the wisdom of that. Richard said there is a lot of room needed to store the pellets. Stu said he would pass along the suggestion to the fire chief.

Pump – Engine 401 – Stu reported there is apparently an expensive problem with the pump on Engine 401 which will require that it be driven to Island Falls for repair. He said he wasn't sure what the problem was exactly, but it has to do with the lubrication system. Selectmen asked how old the truck is. Stu said it is the 1995 truck, so it's 17-years old.

March 19th Fire – Stu recapped the response to the fire at the McLaughlin/Berzinis house on Douglas Highway. He highlighted the automatic mutual aid response, the costs for diesel and foam, and the turnout for the fundraiser the previous weekend. He noted that despite an incredibly fast response time, the fire consumed the home too quickly to save.

Phone/Fax Line – Stu reported that since one of the fax machines in the office was recalled, town office cannot automatically receive fax transmissions or voice mails after hours. He suggested using the Secretary of State's phone line as the incoming fax line, and would like to hook it up in the clerk's office with a switch between lines. He said an electrician estimated \$75 to install it. Selectmen had no objection.

Lamoine Quarterly – Stu thanked Cynthia for an extensive editing job, and said the changes had been incorporated and it's ready to print.

Personnel Review Schedule – Stu said he put the material in the packets, and the first review would be next meeting, and it is his. He said the staff being reviewed has said they would be able to make it. Cynthia noted that when the Code Enforcement Officer's review takes place, a review of his work log should be done.

Returnables Request – Jo moved to assign July 2012 to the Lamoine Conservation Commission. Richard 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Gardens @ Town Hall – Stu said the timbers in the front gardens have fallen into disrepair. He said he got a quote from Richard McMullen for either timbers or field stone with new dirt, mulch and fertilizer. He said the estimate was more than was in the administration budget. Jo suggested checking with the master gardener's club and to get some other quotes. Selectmen asked to hold off on the project.

Other – Bill mentioned media reports on a tax lien foreclosure case in Blue Hill where a woman was being evicted after not paying her property taxes for about 20-years. A brief discussion followed on the lien process and how it works in Lamoine. Stu noted the last piece of tax acquired property was transferred earlier in the meeting. He noted that he is

an instructor for the Maine Municipal Tax Collectors' and Treasurers' Association in the tax lien course and it's surprising how many towns fail to follow proper procedure.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Administrative Assistant